subject of Jammu and Kashmir or any other subject that relates to India's internal affairs.

(c) Governments of the friendly countries who are members of OIC have been briefed by our envoys on the factual position regarding the cross border terrorism in Kashmir being sponsored by Pakistan.

Indo-Pak Talks in Beijing

2710. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the newsitem, "Indo-Pak talks to be held in Beijing" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated 17th July, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the proposed three-member Indian team has any official blessing and authority to discuss the sensitive bilateral issues between India and Pakistan;

(d) to what extent the semi-official level talks of the two teams would be binding on their respective Government; and

(e) what is the practical utility of such dialogue on serious and sensitive issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) Government have seen the report appearing in the Business Standard of 17.7.2000. Indian participants to the seminar organized by the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Beijing had no official or 'semi-official' mandate.